



Health Services
LOS ANGELES COUNTY

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www.dhs.lacounty.gov

*To ensure access to high-quality,
patient-centered, cost-effective
health care to Los Angeles County
residents through direct services at
DHS facilities and through
collaboration with community and
university partners.*



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September 5, 2012

TO: Each Supervisor

FROM: Mitchell H. Katz, M.D.
Director of Health Services

SUBJECT: **INTENT TO PARTICIPATE IN DOCUMENTARY**

The Department of Health Services (DHS) has been asked to participate in an HBO documentary on mental illness, produced and directed by Dr. Kenneth Paul Rosenberg of Cornell University.

Dr. Rosenberg is a Distinguished Fellow of the American Psychiatric Association. In the past 25 years he has made a number of films on important health subjects such as Alzheimer's disease, cancer, addiction and mental health. These films have been recognized artistically by honors, such as the Emmy Awards and by a number of prestigious medical organizations, such as the American Medical Association. They have been distributed to colleges, libraries, high schools, and medical and nursing schools throughout the world to foster understanding and promote positive solutions.

The goal of Dr. Rosenberg's current project is to educate the public, as well as mental health and medical professionals, about the plight and journey of individuals seeking mental health treatment. This film will also demonstrate the great need for sufficient mental health care in our country, the measures that are required to help patients, and the serious and dire circumstances encountered by the persistently mentally ill.

DHS supports the goals of this film and would like to help increase awareness by allowing the filmmakers supervised access to the LAC+USC psychiatric emergency room (PES). Filming at LAC+USC would document the stories of consenting patients and the efforts of the dedicated professionals working at the LAC+USC PES. All staff and patients participating in this project would need to give proper consent to be filmed. In addition, for the protection of patients, a licensed health care provider must determine that any patient giving consent to be filmed has the capacity to make and understand that decision.

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We would like to go forward with this project if the Board has no objections. If we do not have any objections to this project from your offices by Wednesday, September 19, 2012, we will proceed with making arrangements for participation in the documentary.

Please contact me at (213) 240-8101 with any questions or concerns you may have about this matter.

MHK:ws

c: Chief Executive Office
County Counsel
Executive Office, Board of Supervisors
Department of Mental Health